

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124880 TOSEC 020099

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT OF CAIRO 5347 TO SECSTATE INFO ALEXANDRIA MAY 29

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5347

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO TO DOD CNO CINCUSNAVEUR COMSIXTHFLT

EO 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: MILI PORT VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA OF USS LITTLE ROCK

1. SEPT WILL RECALL THAT DURING ADMIRAL SHEAR'S VISIT TO CAIRO, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR USS LITTLE ROCK TO PARTICIPATE IN JUNE 5 SUEZ CANAL REOPENING CEREMONIES (CAIRO 4702 NOTAL). REALIZING THAT LITTLE ROCK WAS BEING SENT IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPECIFIC REQUEST, AND THAT SHE WILL RETURN TO MEDITERRANEAN JUNE 6. GENERAL GAMASSY SUGGESTED AT THE TIME THAT IT WOULD BE A NICE GESTURE OF APPRECIATION BY EGYPTIANS IF LITTLE ROCK WERE INVITED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL PORT VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. I INDICATED IF THIS WERE THE WISH OF
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PRESIDENT SADAT, USG WOULD DOUBTLESS BE AGREEABLE AND ADMIRAL SHEAR CONCURRED.

2. BOTH GAMASSY AND FAHMY TOLD ME THIS MORNING AT

THE AIRPORT THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS APPROVED A PORT VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA BY LITTLE ROCK TO COME IMMEDIATELY AFTER HER PARTICIPATION IN SUEZ CANAL OPENING CEREMONIES. WE SHOULD REGARD HIS STATEMENT TO ME AS FORMAL GOE INVITATION. GAMASSY ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE PERTINENT INFORMATION ON USS LITTLE ROCK, WHICH WE HAVE DONE.

3. SINCE TWO IRANIAN DESTROYERS WILL TRANSIT THE SUEZ CANAL NORTHBOUND ON JUNE 6 AND ARRIVE IN ALEXANDRIA AT 1800 LOCAL SAME DAY, GAMASSY SUGGESTED LITTLE ROCK PLAN TO ARRIVE IN ALEXANDRIA AT 0700 OF JUNE 7. THIS WILL ENABLE SEPARATE NAVAL WELCOMING CEREMONIES TO BE GIVEN TO THE IRANIAN AND US SHIPS. GAMASSY SUGGESTS LITTLE ROCK PLAN TO STAY JUNE 7 TO 9. (TWO FRENCH VESSELS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN SUEZ CANAL MINE CLEARANCE ARE SCHEDULED MAKE DEPARTURE CALL AT ALEXANDRIA BEGINNING JUNE 10). GAMASSY EXPRESSED HOPE THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY AND SAID ADMIRAL ZIKRY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS TO WELCOME USS LITTLE ROCK.

4. SO FAR AS LITTLE ROCK'S PARTICIPATION IN JUNE 5 CEREMONY IS CONCERNED, GAMASSY SAYS THIS IS STILL CLOSELY HELD IN THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. APART FROM THE PRESIDENT, HE, FAHMY, ZIKRY AND MASHOUR ARE ALLEGEDLY THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT IT. GAMASSY SUGGESTS LITTLE ROCK PLAN TO ARRIVE AT PORT SAID AT ABOUT 0700 JUNE 5 TO BE GIVEN HER PLACE IN CONVOY. HE THOUGHT GOE WILL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT LITTLE ROCK'S PARTICIPATION EITHER THE NIGHT OF JUNE 4 OR JUNE 5, BUT INDICATED DETAILS WILL BE WORKED OUT BY FONMINISTRY AND SCA. EILTS UNQTE INGERSOLL

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